

Message

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**From:** LaLone, Christopher (DEC) [christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov]  
**Sent:** 1/16/2019 5:12:06 PM  
**To:** Lisichenko, Peter [lisichenko.peter@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Budroe, Thomas [Budroe.Thomas@epa.gov]; Harkay, Dan [Harkay.Dan@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: TCC follow-up

Peter,

Thanks for the input. I appreciate all your help.

Chris

On Jan 16, 2019, at 12:10 PM, Lisichenko, Peter <[lisichenko.peter@epa.gov](mailto:lisichenko.peter@epa.gov)> wrote:

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Hi Chris,

The decontamination of the moat has been postponed due to the weather. We have been focusing on setting up an on-site treatment system for secondary containment captured solutions, including rain and snowmelt captured in the moat area. In addition, we will be continuing to decommission the various sumps on-site and continue to maintain the stormwater treatment system.

The 3 million gallon tank was neither a WAL tank or an equalization tank. It was a storage tank, adjacent to the equalization tank along the southern boundary of the site, that was used to store excessive waste material when the ammonia still was non-operational or byproducts production exceeded the capacity of the still. It is suspected that this excess material was stored for several years. The tanks historical use was most likely coal tar storage.

-Pete

Peter Lisichenko  
U.S. EPA Region 2  
347-276-6251 (cell/text)

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**From:** LaLone, Christopher (DEC) <[christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov](mailto:christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 11:43 AM  
**To:** Lisichenko, Peter <[lisichenko.peter@epa.gov](mailto:lisichenko.peter@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: TCC follow-up

Peter,

A couple follow-up questions (highlighted below) on the info you gave me last week. Also is the 3 million gallon tank you referenced last week a WAL tank or the equalization tank. If you can help that would be great. Thanks.

Chris

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**From:** Ringewald, Erica R (DEC)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 11:20 AM

**To:** LaLone, Christopher (DEC) <[christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov](mailto:christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov)>; Ryan, Michael (DEC) <[michael.ryan@dec.ny.gov](mailto:michael.ryan@dec.ny.gov)>; Brand, Martin (DEC) <[martin.brand@dec.ny.gov](mailto:martin.brand@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mahar, Sean C (DEC) <[Sean.Mahar@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Sean.Mahar@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: TCC follow-up

TJ reached out again looking for this info – also -- is 'the decontamination of the floor and sidewalls of the moat area' began this week, so I can say that?

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**From:** LaLone, Christopher (DEC)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 1:20 PM  
**To:** Ringewald, Erica R (DEC) <[Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov)>; Ryan, Michael (DEC) <[michael.ryan@dec.ny.gov](mailto:michael.ryan@dec.ny.gov)>; Brand, Martin (DEC) <[martin.brand@dec.ny.gov](mailto:martin.brand@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mahar, Sean C (DEC) <[Sean.Mahar@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Sean.Mahar@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: TCC follow-up

My belief is they are the same tanks but I am confirming with the experts.

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**From:** Ringewald, Erica R (DEC)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 12:16 PM  
**To:** LaLone, Christopher (DEC) <[christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov](mailto:christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov)>; Ryan, Michael (DEC) <[michael.ryan@dec.ny.gov](mailto:michael.ryan@dec.ny.gov)>; Brand, Martin (DEC) <[martin.brand@dec.ny.gov](mailto:martin.brand@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mahar, Sean C (DEC) <[Sean.Mahar@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Sean.Mahar@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: TCC follow-up

From TJ. See below

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**From:** Pignataro, Todd [<mailto:TPignataro@buffnews.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 12:15 PM  
**To:** Ringewald, Erica R (DEC) <[Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: TCC follow-up

*ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.*

Hi again Erica,

Do you know whether those ammonia tanks you referenced below are of the same WAL (Waste Ammonia Liquor) tanks previously referenced as having been leaking on the TCC site? Photo attached.

Thanks.

-tj.

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**From:** Ringewald, Erica R (DEC) <Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 11, 2019 2:42:52 PM  
**To:** Pignataro, Todd  
**Subject:** RE: TCC follow-up

More info for you – hope this is helpful

Let's talk later today or Monday if you like

#### **ON BACKGROUND**

- The boiler was shut down on Dec. 26, 2018, and the ammonia still is no longer in operation. A baker style tank (mobile tank system) with a weir is on-site and will receive site water now that the boiler is shut down. The EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) has been in contact with the local POTW about batch discharges from this tank.

Upon entering the facility, investigators identified a large three-million gallon tank contained approximately 900,000 gallons of waste ammonia solution resulting from the coking process. This material was highly concentrated and posed a significant threat. Powered by the boiler house, the on-site ammonia still was used to treat and properly dispose of this material. On Dec. 19, 2018, the last of this material was transferred to the ammonia still receiving tank for treatment. Treatment of the material was completed on Dec. 26, 2018, and the shuttering of the boiler house started with turning off the gas supply.

The controlled shutdown process was conducted slowly over several days to ensure it was done safely and properly, including the depressurization and draining of vessels and pipes within the boiler house. Industrial natural gas service to the boiler house has been terminated by the utility company and the lines have been purged. Water service to the boiler house, including domestic and river source, has also been turned off. With the closure of the boiler, the ammonia still was subsequently taken off-line and the treatment lines were purged.

- A baker style tank (mobile tank system) with a weir is on-site and will receive site water now that the boiler is shut down. The EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) has been in contact with the local POTW about batch discharges from this tank.

All secondary containment water, resulting from snow and rain accumulation, will be filtered and pumped into the tank for treatment prior to discharge to the sanitary sewer system.

- Decontamination and removal of the moat secondary containment is scheduled to begin this week.

The process will first include the decontamination of the floor and sidewalls of the "moat" area and of the processing equipment within the containment walls. The actual removal of the containment walls and floors will not be completed until all tanks and vessels are emptied. Until that time, water generated from rain and snowmelt will be captured in the baker-style tank.

- Utilities (electricity, water and natural gas) have been shut off for the majority of the plant.

Utilities were shut off to minimize threats from fires and to minimize surface runoff from burst water lines. Utilities are maintained at specific locations that serve to aid the response effort, including the office space and guard house. In addition, at every step local emergency responders have been updated on changes in the facility's conditions. Updates to the Contingency Plan are forthcoming.

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**From:** Pignataro, Todd [<mailto:TPignataro@buffnews.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 09, 2019 1:44 PM  
**To:** Ringewald, Erica R (DEC) <[Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: TCC follow-up

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No. End of the week, if possible.

Thanks! ☺

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**From:** Ringewald, Erica R (DEC) <[Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 1:21:21 PM  
**To:** Pignataro, Todd  
**Subject:** RE: TCC follow-up

Are you looking for this today? Will send whatever we have when we have it

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**From:** Pignataro, Todd [<mailto:TPignataro@buffnews.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 09, 2019 12:15 PM  
**To:** Ringewald, Erica R (DEC) <[Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: TCC follow-up

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Nah. I went to the Sabres game with my daughters. It was probably slightly less entertaining, but victorious.

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**From:** Ringewald, Erica R (DEC) <[Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 12:08:14 PM

**To:** Pignataro, Todd  
**Subject:** RE: TCC follow-up

You mean #TrumpShutdown

Did you watch him last night? Unbelievable

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**From:** Pignataro, Todd [<mailto:TPignataro@buffnews.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 12:07 PM  
**To:** Ringewald, Erica R (DEC) <[Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: TCC follow-up

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Thanks!

They're not particularly easy to reach these days. #gShutdown

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**From:** Ringewald, Erica R (DEC) <[Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 11:53:41 AM  
**To:** Pignataro, Todd  
**Subject:** RE: TCC follow-up

I'm checking. Some likely better for EPA to answer, but they're not at the moment, as you know! Will see what I can do

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**From:** Pignataro, Todd [<mailto:TPignataro@buffnews.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 11:51 AM  
**To:** Ringewald, Erica R (DEC) <[Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: TCC follow-up

*ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.*

Thanks for this Erica,

Are there any further descriptive details you can provide on background for how:

- The boiler was shut down on Dec. 26, 2018, and the ammonia still is no longer in operation. A baker style tank (mobile tank system) with a weir is on-site and will receive site water now that the boiler is shut down. The EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) has been in contact with the local POTW about batch discharges from this tank.

- Decontamination and removal of the moat secondary containment is scheduled to begin this week.
- Utilities (electricity, water and natural gas) have been shut off for the majority of the plant.

I guess I'm looking for a little bit more of a play-by-play as to how, technically, these things are accomplished, and what, if any, challenges arise in the process thereof.

If these are questions more suited to the EPA itself, LMK.

Thanks again!

-tj.

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**From:** Ringewald, Erica R (DEC) <[Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 1:05:15 PM

**To:** Pignataro, Todd

**Subject:** TCC follow-up

TJ, a few updates below. Hope this is helpful. Call me if you want to discuss

ER

**STATEMENT FOR ATTRIBUTION TO MARTIN BRAND, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION AND MATERIALS MANAGEMENT, NYS DEC**

Across the state, DEC optimizes strategies based on lessons learned from successful cleanup projects, including similarly contaminated industrial sites like Morgan Materials and the Bethlehem Steel site.

New York's responsible and aggressive approach has resulted in hundreds of successful cleanups strategically designed to safeguard communities from environmental harm, provide flexibility for future

redevelopment, and meet the needs of local planning and development agencies. New York State is on the job at this site and committed to a comprehensive cleanup that the Tonawanda community deserves.

After the EPA's work to stabilize and secure the site is complete, a comprehensive investigation is necessary to understand the full nature and extent of contamination. DEC and EPA will conduct a full analysis of cleanup strategies, which will inform the selection of an appropriate cleanup action(s) to prepare the property for future re-use.

## ON BACKGROUND

- EPA, contractors, and site security remain working despite federal government shutdown.
- EPA is working on updating the contingency plan to account for the changes to the site.
- The boiler was shut down on Dec. 26, 2018, and the ammonia still is no longer in operation. A baker style tank (mobile tank system) with a weir is on-site and will receive site water now that the boiler is shut down. The EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) has been in contact with the local POTW about batch discharges from this tank.
- Decontamination and removal of the moat secondary containment is scheduled to begin this week.
- DEC is not aware of any acute issues that are an imminent threat to public health or the environment. The moat is not an acute issue.
- Utilities (electricity, water and natural gas) have been shut off for the majority of the plant.

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**From:** Pignataro, Todd [<mailto:TPignataro@buffnews.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 7, 2019 10:14 AM  
**To:** Ringewald, Erica R (DEC) <[Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Subject:** TCC follow-up

*ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.*

Hi Erica,

I hope your family's doing better health-wise this week. It sounds like some nasty stuff is going around.

I'm back on the TCC beat again this week.

If possible, I'm hoping for a general update as to what's been going on at the site since early to mid December.

From some drone images our photographers obtained last week, it appears as though some work has been done at or around those open moat areas that were of original concern to the EPA investigator in October.

Have those issues of concerns at the moats been ameliorated? If yes, how was that accomplished?

What other acute issues remain? How long might it take for them to be rendered non-threatening to public health or the environment?

What are the next steps in the process, and is there a general timeline as to what goals are set for 2019?

Thanks!

Best,

-tj.

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